

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05

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R 121738Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0812

INFO AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L OUAGADOUGOU 0113

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, UV

SUBJ: MEETING BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND TRADE UNIONS

REF: OUAGADOUGOU 0092

1. PRESIDENT LAMIZANA MET WITH TRADE UNION LEADERS MORNING JANUARY 10 TO DISCUSS POLITICAL REFORMS. ON TRADE UNION SIDE WERE EMMANUEL OUEDRAOGO (C.N.T.V.), HADO ZABRE (C.S.V.), BONIFACE KABORE (O.V.S.L.), AND ZOUMANA TRAORE (U.S.T.V.). ON GOVERNMENT SIDE WERE MINISTER OF DEFENSE BABA SY, MINISTER OF INTERIOR BILA ZAGRE, MINISTER OF INFORMATION BAMBARA, MINISTER OF LABOR KAM AND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR PLANNING KALMOGO.

2. ACCORDING TO THE INDEPENDENT DAILY "L'OBSERVATEUR" OF JANUARY 12, TRADE UNION LEADERS CAME OUT OF THE DISCUSSIONS CONVINCED THAT THEY HAD REACHED AN AGREEMENT WITH THE PRESIDENT ON STEPS TO BE TAKEN TO RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL RULE. "L'OBSERVATEUR" COMMENTS THAT IT IS UNLIKELY GENERAL STRIKE TENTATIVELY
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SCHEDULED FOR BEGINNING OF FEBRUARY WILL NOW TAKE

PLACE. OPTIMISM SEEMS TO BE THE ORDER OF THE DAY IN BOTH GOUV AND TRADE UNION CIRCLES AND AMONG THE VOLTAN PUBLIC.

3. ACCORDING TO FRENCH EMBASSY SOURCE, PRESIDENT WILL ANNOUNCE, WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS, MAJOR CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION OF HIS GOVERNMENT. PRESIDENT HAS REPORTEDLY AGREED TO APPOINT A CIVILIAN PRIME MINISTER, PREFERABLY A CHRISTIAN MOSSI, BUT IS STILL CONSULTING ON SEVERAL CANDIDATES. OTHER CHANGES WOULD REPORTEDLY INVOLVE THE MINISTERIES OF FINANCE, INTERIOR, PLANNING, INFORMATION AND YOUTH AND SPORTS.

4. COMMENT: IF OUR INFORMATION IS CORRECT, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT PRESIDENT LAMIZANA HAS WEATHERED THE STORM AND HAS BEEN ABLE TO SATISFY SOME OF THE TRADE UNION'S DEMANDS WHILE AVERTING A VIOLENT REACTION FROM HIS MILITARY COLLEAGUES. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WEHTER THE MILITARY WILL QUIETLY STAND BY WHILE A NEW CONSTITUTION IS DRAFTED AND THE COUNTRY IS GRADUALLY RETURNED TO CIVILIAN RULE. A PEACEFUL TRANSFER OF POWERS FROM MILITARY TO CIVILIAN RULE WOULD, INDEED, REPRESENT SOMETHING OF A MILESTONE IN MODERN AFRICAN POLITICS.
GRAHAM

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